

Wayne Allard

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ALLARD AGREES TO WORK WITH THURMOND TO PUT DOE AGREEMENT INTO LEGISLATION COLORADO AND SOUTH CAROLINA SENATORS BELIEVE LEGISLATION WILL RESOLVE PLUTONIUM DISPOSITION ISSUE AND ALLOW FOR ROCKY FLATS SHIPMENTS TO BEGIN

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-CO) today said he has agreed to work with South Carolina's Senior U.S. Senator Strom Thurmond (R-SC) to develop and pass legislation that will commit the Department of Energy (DOE) to the terms of the agreement reached last week between South Carolina Governor Jim Hodges and Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham. The commitment came in the form of a letter Monday from Allard to Thurmond. Allard said his support for codifying the agreement legislatively should now allow for Secretary Abraham to go ahead with the 30 day notice to begin shipments from Rocky Flats.

"I am committed to working with Senator Thurmond to pass legislation related to the plutonium disposition agreement worked out last week between DOE and Governor Hodges," said Senator Allard, Ranking Member of the Senate Armed Service Strategic Subcommittee. "Colorado and South Carolina can work together to ensure this national security issue is resolved in Congress and not in the courts. We should not allow the courts to determine our national security. I believe this is a win-win proposal that is good for Colorado, South Carolina and the nation."

Under the terms of the agreement worked out last week by Secretary Abraham, DOE will build a facility in South Carolina to process waste from Rocky Flats. It commits the DOE to begin processing at least one metric ton of fuel at the new facility by January 1, 2009 or the DOE would be required to remove the plutonium from South Carolina and ship it to another site.

"I believe that Senator Thurmond and I can get this legislation enacted quickly with the cooperation of everyone involved," added Senator Allard. "This is an issue of great national security involving not only Colorado and South Carolina, but the United States and Russia."

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